

**Amendments To The Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility and free from bald spots, characterized by the steel sheet containing, by mass%,

C: 0.03 to 0.15%,  
Si: ~~0.8~~ 1.3 to 3.0%,  
Mn: 0.5 to 3.0%,  
P: 0.07% or less,  
S: 0.01% or less,  
Al: 0.015 to 0.1%,  
N: 0.001 to 0.008%,

the steel sheet optionally containing one or more of the Ti: 0.02 to 0.3%, Nb: 0.01 to 0.5%, Ni: 0.1 to 2.0%, B: 0.0002 to 0.006%, and Ca: 0.0005 to 0.005%; and

the steel sheet being free from ~~the~~ containing Cu and Mo, and the balance of Fe and unavoidable impurities, the oxides on the steel sheet surface having, by mass%, ~~[[an]]~~ a Si concentration of 3.5% or less and ~~[[an]]~~ a Mn concentration of 3.5% or less, and

an average roughness Ra of the steel sheet surface ~~[[is]]~~ of 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and ~~a an average~~ number of ~~pittings pits~~ of a diameter of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  ~~[[is]]~~ of ~~an average~~ 5 or less in squares of the steel sheet surface when dividing it into squares of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  per side,

the steel sheet obtained by pickling by dipping the steel sheet in an aqueous solution containing ~~a HNO<sub>3</sub> concentration of 0.5 to 5 mass% and, by mass%,~~ a HCl concentration of 7 to 15 mass%, an Fe ion concentration of 4 to 12% and a balance of metal ions other than Fe and impurities, at a solution temperature of 80 to 98°C for ~~40 sec or more~~ to when a dipping time such that the HCl concentration (mass %) x dipping time (sec) ~~becomes is~~ is 273 to 520 or less.

2-8. (Canceled).

9. (New) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility and free from bald spots as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution further contains  $\text{HNO}_3$  of a concentration of 0.5 to 5 mass%.

10. (New) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility and free from bald spots as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dipping time is such that the  $\text{HCl}$  concentration (mass %) x dipping time (sec) is 280 to 520.

11. (New) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility and free from bald spots as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dipping time is 40 sec or more.